

TOP SECRET

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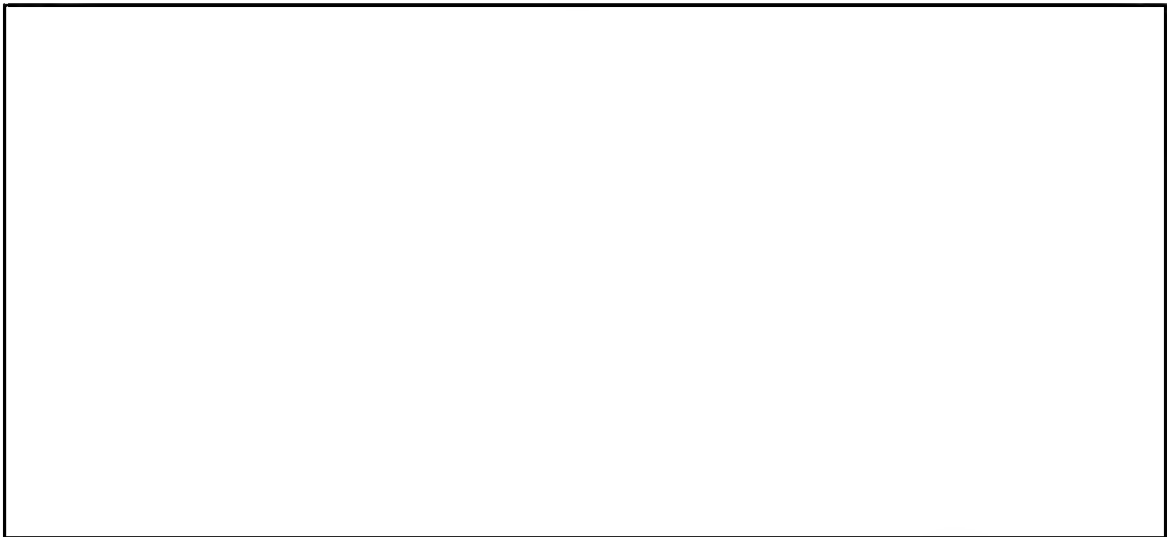
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**1. AT NASR'S "REQUEST" SYRIA REFUSES PERMISSION
FOR PIPELINE REPAIRS**

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Syrian prime minister Asali told Ambassador Moose on 7 February that Syria's refusal to permit the Iraq Petroleum Company to repair its oil pipelines across Syria resulted from a request by Nasr to

take no action because Egypt was considering suspension of clearance operations of the Suez Canal.

IPC officials informed Moose on 6 February that Asali "regretfully" refused permission to begin repairs until the Israelis withdraw from Sinai and Gaza and until UN forces leave Sinai.

Comment

Reports from Damascus have indicated an increasing desire among Syrian officials to get oil flowing again across Syria, particularly following recent IPC payments of \$14,420,000 in oil transit royalties to Syria. Egyptian influence in Syria is such, however, that the decisions will continue to be made in Cairo.

Asali's statement is the first suggestion that the departure of UN forces might be made a condition to the resumption of the flow of oil across Syria. 

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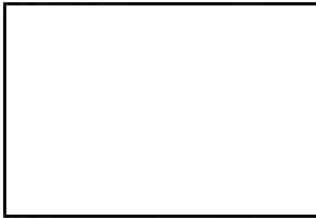
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6. FRENCH COMMUNISTS CALL STRIKE RALLY

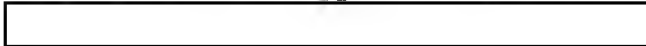
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The Communist-dominated French General Labor Confederation's call for a "show of strength" labor rally on 11 February is probably an attempt to exploit an economic issue in order to recoup the prestige lost as a result of the party's stand on Hungary and Suez. If Communist leaders gauge their labor support as adequate, they may then take advantage of the current discontent over wage ceilings and high prices to bring off a crippling national strike.

There have been sporadic strikes and slow-downs over the wage question among civil servants, public utility workers, and air line employees in the past few weeks. While some of these strikes were a joint effort by Communist and non-Communist unions, chances are slim that the Communists will be able to snowball them into a mass effort. The General Labor Confederation can be expected to step up its own strike activity following the rally, however, and it may receive isolated support from non-Communist labor unions.

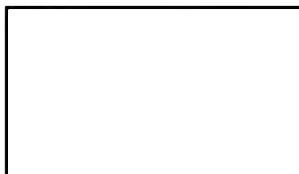
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7. NAGY TRIAL MAY BE IN PROSPECT IN HUNGARY

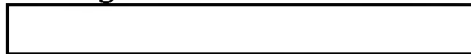
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The authoritative statement on 9 February made by Karoly Kiss, a leading member of the executive committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers (Communist) Party, that "more and more ordinary people believe that Imre Nagy ought to be tried by a court" strongly suggests that such a trial is now being prepared by the Hungarian regime. Such a trial would be intended as a warning to liberal Communist elements throughout the Satellites.

Party leader Janos Kadar charged on 2 February that Nagy and three leading intellectuals who collaborated with him had "fomented an armed attack against the Hungarian Peoples Republic" and "protected the cause of counterrevolution." Kadar's statement suggests that charges being prepared against Nagy may also implicate Cardinal Mindszenty. This in turn would probably involve the United States legation in Budapest, where Mindszenty took refuge on 4 November.

Nagy is reportedly regarded as a national hero by the great majority of the Hungarian people. Any move to stage a public trial would confront the regime with a serious problem of maintaining public order.



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8. HATTA CHALLENGES SUKARNO TO TAKE CONTROL IN INDONESIA

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Former vice president Hatta stated in a recent press interview that the only solution to Indonesia's deteriorating economic and political situation is for President Sukarno to take personal charge of the country's affairs as the head of a presidential cabinet. He called on parliament to give Sukarno the necessary power to form such a regime. Hatta, however, went on to attack Indonesia's "bureaucratic-centralistic" form of government, which he accused of neglecting the peoples' interests, and stated that the situation could be rectified only by granting immediately regional demands for autonomy.

In challenging Sukarno to "put up or shut up" by assuming full executive responsibility for the government, Hatta probably hopes Sukarno will demonstrate he is either unwilling or unable to deal effectively with Indonesia's problems. In this event, Hatta would be available for the premiership and may well calculate that Sukarno will continue to avoid entanglement in the day-to-day operations of the government.

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